

has a system in place under which the officers of the Ministry visit various National Parks and Sanctuaries and review their functioning. Besides Members of the Steering Committee of Project Tiger and Project Elephant also review the functioning of various National Parks and sanctuaries.

(c) The deficiencies and shortcomings noticed in the functioning of National Parks and sanctuaries are:

1. Large no. of vacancies at the level of forest guards, foresters, rangers and Asstt. Conservator of Forests.
2. Inadequate mobility, ineffective communication network and lack of appropriate arms for the protection staff.
3. Lack of anti-poaching camps at sensitive sites.
4. Inadequate boundary demarcations.
5. Delay in payment of compensation for loss of life and property caused by wild animals.

(d) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments for improved management of National Parks and sanctuaries including upgrading mobility, communication network, purchase of sophisticated arms, habitat improvement, augmentation of water supply and demarcation of boundaries etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Investigations into Poaching of elephants in Corbett Park

3866. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent investigations into the elephants poaching in Corbett National Park recently have shown involvement of North-East gang's role in poaching activities and gross security lapses in checking it;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Investigations into the recent

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cases of poaching of elephants in Corbett National Park indicate involvement of some north-eastern gang in these activities. The arrows recovered from the carcass of some elephants are very similar to those used by the Lishu tribe of Arunachal Pradesh for hunting of elephants.

(c) A team of senior wildlife officers of Government of India visited the Park on 12-13th February, 2001 to make on the spot assessment of the situation. On the basis of the report of the team, the Central Government requested the State Government to take the following actions:

- (i) Replace the senior level officers of the Park with more efficient and committed officers.
- (ii) Fill up all the vacant posts at field level.
- (iii) Improve the communication network to enable the field staff to reach the far-flung area of the Park quickly as and when required.
- (iv) The State Government has also been asked to prepare a contingency plan for which the funds can be made available by the Central Government.

Uttar Pradesh Government has also been requested to transfer the funds released by the Central Government for the Park expeditiously to Uttranchal Government.

C.B.I. has also been requested to assist the State Government in investigating the case successfully.

Prevention of river pollution

3867. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy/plans to prevent the rivers from getting polluted; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard in respect of river Cauvery?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A scheme of pollution abatement